

## IN THIS ISSUE

THE concept of public health has broadened and today the control of the chronic diseases is considered of major importance. The article "A Study of Illness Among Families in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore" by Miss Jean Downes of the Fund's staff and Selwyn D. Collins, Principal Statistician of the United States Public Health Service, is a preliminary report of a year's study of illness in a sample population. In this study, which is to continue over a period of years, special emphasis is placed upon the chronic diseases. Information is being secured concerning their frequency of occurrence, their duration in terms of total illness, of disability, bed, and hospital care.



Despite the urgent importance of current unemployment, students of population have generally considered this problem as being outside their legitimate sphere for study. On the other hand, students of unemployment often fail to describe the problem with respect to age and sex characteristics and have heretofore made little attempt to assess the relative importance of reductions in numbers of jobs and sheer increments to the labor market arising from past natural increases in the population. In this issue Dr. Rupert B. Vance and Mrs. Nadia Danilevski present a paper, "Population and the Pattern of Unemployment, 1930-1937." By comparing data from the Unemployment Census in 1930 with the United States Census of Partial Employment, Unemployment, and Occupations, 1937, the authors studied the trends in unemployment by sex, age, and functional class. They used an ingenious method for estimating how much of the increase in unemployment from 1930 to 1937 arose from stoppage of previous employment and how much from increase in the population. This able analysis contributes much toward a better understanding of a complex problem.

Preventive measures in tuberculosis are based upon what is known of the etiology and the epidemiology of the disease. In the article, "Salient Points of Attack Against Tuberculosis," Miss Jean Downes of the Fund's staff reviews and discusses the recent advances in knowledge of the epidemiology of tuberculosis which point the way to a more direct and more specific program for the control of the disease.



One of the most significant contributions to our knowledge of the epidemiology of tuberculosis was made by the late Dr. Wade H. Frost in the article, "The Age Selection of Mortality from Tuberculosis in Successive Decades." Dr. Frost concluded that change in human resistance is probably the predominant factor in the up-and-down movement of mortality along the age scale from infancy to old age. This study of Dr. Frost's is important because it increases our understanding of the age-selection of tuberculosis mortality.



Familial incidence of any disease is one important aspect of the epidemiology of a disease. Evidence that the children in some families constitute a group susceptible to dental caries and that those in other families are relatively immune, has significant implications for further studies of the problem of dental caries and for a preventive program. The results of an analysis of the caries experience of brothers and sisters are presented by Dr. Henry E. Klein and Dr. Carroll E. Palmer in a paper on Familial Resemblance in the Caries Experience of Siblings. The authors conclude "that the existence of familial resemblances in caries experience of children is definitely established."